

## CLAIMS:

1. A digital storage device (150) including a content directory service (hereinafter "CDS") with a dynamic, hierarchical structure of digital storage containers, each capable of storing digital data objects; each object including an object description and an object content or object content locator, such as a URL; at least one of the containers being a predetermined input container for receiving a digital data object;  
5 the device being arranged to, in response to receiving a digital data object in the predetermined input container, determine a container in the CDS based on the object description and/or object content of the received object, to move the received object to the determined container and to provide feedback to a human operator of the device on the determined container.
- 10 2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the received object is associated with metadata describing the object content, and the device being arranged to determine the container based on the metadata associated with the received object.
- 15 3. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the metadata is made available to the device in at least one of the following ways:
  - the object description includes the metadata;
  - the object description includes an object content identifier and the device being arranged
  - 20 to retrieve the metadata in dependence on the object content identifier;
  - the metadata is embedded in the object content;
  - the device being arranged to determine a fingerprint of the object content and to retrieve the metadata in dependence on the fingerprint.
- 25 4. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the metadata is included in the object description or retrieved using the object description; the device being arranged to determine a fingerprint of the object content, to retrieve further metadata in dependence on the fingerprint and to compare the metadata and the further metadata.

5. A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the device is arranged to interact with a human operator if the comparison reveals a mismatch.
6. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the device includes rules for  
5 determining the container in dependence on metadata.
7. A device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the device is operative to enable a human operator to determine and/or modify the rules.
- 10 8. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined container is located in a root of the CDS.
9. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is operative to enable the human operator to overrule the container determined by the device.  
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10. A system (100) including a plurality of devices (150, 160, 162, 164, 166) operative to communicate via a network (110); at least one of the devices (hereinafter "server", 150) including a content directory service (hereinafter "CDS") with a dynamic, hierarchical structure of digital storage containers, each capable of storing digital data  
20 objects; each object including an object description and an object content or object content locator, such as a URL;  
the CDS being accessible by the devices in the network and including a predetermined upload container for uploading an object from a device in the system;  
at least one device in the system (hereinafter "uploader") being arranged to  
25 make an object available via the CDS to devices in the system by uploading the object through the network to the predetermined container;  
the server being arranged to, in response to receiving an uploaded object in the predetermined upload container, determine a container in the CDS based on the object description and/or object content, to move the uploaded object to the determined container  
30 and to provide feedback to the uploader on the determined container.
11. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the uploader is operative to provide feedback to a human operator of the device on the determined container.

12. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the uploaded object is associated with metadata describing the object content, and the server being arranged to determine the container based on the metadata associated with the uploaded object.
- 5 13. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the CDS includes for each device of the system a respective predetermined upload container for uploading an object from the respective device.
- 10 14. A system as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the uploader is operative determine the predetermined upload container by searching the CDS.
- 15 15. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the uploaded object is associated with metadata describing the object content, the system includes a plurality of servers each including respective rules for determining a container in the CDS for an uploaded object in dependence on metadata associated with the uploaded object; the servers being operative to exchange and/or synchronize the rules.
- 20 16. A method of assigning a digital data object to a digital storage container in a content directory service (hereinafter "CDS") with a dynamic, hierarchical structure of digital storage containers, each capable of storing digital data objects, and each digital data object including an object description and an object content or object content locator, such as a URL; at least one of the containers being a predetermined input container for receiving a digital data object; the method including:
- 25     detecting that a digital data object has been received in the predetermined input container;
- in response to such detection, determining a container in the CDS based on the object description and/or object content of the received object, moving the received object to the determined container; and providing feedback to a human operator on the determined container.
- 30 17. A computer program product operative to cause a processor to perform the method as claimed in claim 16.